



PUBLIC WORKS ENGINEERING

ONE MCDOWELL PLAZA

701 NORTH 7TH STREET, KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

(913) 573-5400

MEMORANDUM

TO

Doug Bach
County Administrator

THROUGH

Troy Shaw, P.E.
County Engineer

Digitally signed by Troy Shaw
Date: 2020.10.09 10:35:29
-05'00'

FROM

Sarah Shafer, P.E.
Engineering Supervisor

Digitally signed by Sarah Rose
Shafer, PE
Date: 2020.10.09 10:32:16 -05'00'

DATE

October 9, 2020

RE

WIFIA Application and Letter of Interest

ATTACHMENTS

Staff Request Commission Approval and WIFIA Letter of Interest

For your signature, attached is the letter of support for the Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (WIFIA) application. The authorization for the County Administrator to execute and send a letter in support of this application was approved on the Consent Agenda at the Planning & Zoning Full Commission meeting on October 1, 2020.

This letter will accompany the initial submittal for the WIFIA application.

Please sign the attached letter in the place indicated and return to my attention.

If you have any questions regarding these documents or the WIFIA application in general, contact Sarah Shafer at 913-291-4740.

APPROVED
BY
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
BY
DATE 10-9-20

CC

Troy Shaw, County Engineer
Jeff Fisher, Public Works Director



Staff Request for Commission Action

Tracking No. 20383

APPROVED BY
UNIFIED BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
10-1-20

Full Commission Meeting Date: 10/1/20

Committee: Public Works & Safety

Date of Standing Committee Action: 9/14/20

(If none, please explain):

Publication Required: No

Date:	Contact Name:	Contact Phone:	Contact Email:	Department/Division:
9/25/2020	Jeff Fisher	x5415	jfisher@wycokck.org	Public Works

Item Description:

Staff recommends providing a letter of support to include within the WIFIA Letter of Interest to be submitted to the EPA by October 15. A draft letter has been prepared by staff and included. The UG Public Works team has identified a need to become more proactive in stormwater management. The existing stormwater management program has been reactive, driven primarily by flooding complaints and infrastructure failure. The WIFIA loan will enable to UG shift from reactive to proactive stormwater management where stormwater investments can be used to protect citizens, meet water quality limits, and to catalyze community benefits. In addition, the WIFIA loan will allow the UG to leverage money spent on the court-ordered consent decree, stormwater management plan, and road improvements to providing local jobs, sustainable housing, and bring business back to the central corridor.

The WIFIA Letter of Interests are reviewed by the EPA, awardees are then notified, and the loan program is finalized within approximately 6-12 months. Upon closing, funds may be distributed immediately to begin projects associated with the approved program.

Action Requested:**Budget Impact: (if applicable)**

Amount:

Source:

Included In Budget:

Other (explain):

Attachments List:

WIFIA Application Support Letter_09.28.2020



County Administrator's Office
Douglas G. Bach, County Administrator

701 North Seventh Street, Ste. 945
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
(913) 573-5030 • FAX (913) 573-5540

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas Board of County Commissioners has instructed me to sign a letter of support on the government's behalf for the Public Works Department's application for a federal Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan to help with costs related to Stormwater and Combined Sewer Management and Infrastructure:

September 14, 2020

Jorianne Jernberg, WIFIA Program Director
USEPA Headquarters
William Jefferson Clinton Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Mail Code: 4202M
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS WIFIA Application

Dear Ms. Jernberg:

We are writing in support of the application by the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas (UG) for a loan under the federal Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (WIFIA).

The UG Public Works team as identified a need to become more proactive in stormwater management. The existing stormwater management program has been reactive, driven primarily by flooding complaints and infrastructure failure. The WIFIA loan will enable to UG shift from reactive to proactive stormwater management where stormwater investments can be used to protect citizens, meet water quality limits, and to catalyze community benefits. In addition, the WIFIA loan will allow the UG to leverage money spent on the court-ordered consent decree, stormwater management plan, and road improvements to providing local jobs, sustainable housing, and bring business back to the central corridor.

To take the first step, the UG Public Works team has characterized the existing stormwater infrastructure data and identified known problem areas. In 2018, the study team identified individual sites known drainage issues across the entire service area, and almost half were located within six out of the seventy-six watersheds.

In addition, the UG has been required to reduce overflows from the Combined and Sanitary Sewers within the county. The UG has entered into an Integrated Overflow Consent Program (IOCP) agreement with EPA that includes areas of sewer separation to separate out the stormwater flows from the combined sewer. Of the projects required in the IOCP several overlap and will be enhanced by the identified stormwater drainage projects. There will be an economic efficiency in combining these

projects into a single program that will fit the needs of both stormwater management and IOCP programs.

To meet its goal of improved drainage, reduced flooding, improved water quality the UG intends to install new storm sewers, new curb and gutter, sewer separation of combined sewers, and green infrastructure solutions.

The residents of the UG need improved stormwater management that provides a safe, reliable, and sustainable solution. In addition to the stormwater benefits to this program will also provide a catalyst for growth in the basins identified that have seen serious blight and flight from the neighborhoods. The WIFIA loan will provide funding to create community amenities through these projects and increase community cohesion.

The financial burdens of this \$320 million dollar program for an economically challenged community are substantial. Total water bills (water supply and wastewater) are already planned to increase in the coming years to provide funding for the IOCP program and continue the reactive stormwater program. A WIFIA loan will allow for the UG to move from a reactive stormwater program to a proactive program and assist the UG in revitalizing the central corridor, including the Jersey Creek, Armourdale, Argentine, and Splitlog Basins.

Thank you for your consideration of our support for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas WIFIA application.

Sincerely,

Douglas G. Bach
County Administrator